



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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PRESS RELEASE

Trucks start rolling on West End beach renourishment

Nearly 12,000 dump truck-loads of sand to be placed just west of Galveston's seawall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 04, 2014

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GALVESTON, Texas — Work on a \$4.5 million beach renourishment project just west of Galveston's seawall began today, with state and local officials gathering to celebrate their partnership to build a better beach as well as protect FM 3005 from future storm surge.

"We're not only building a nice, big beach here for everyone to enjoy, we're helping to protect the only way in or out in the event of a storm," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. "This is a very wise investment."

The four-month long effort will bring nearly 12,000 dump truck-loads of beach-quality sand from a site nine miles away, near the intersection of 77th Street and Harborside Drive, to place on the beach just west of the seawall. The trucks will roll seven days a week during daylight hours, along 61st Street and then west down Seawall Boulevard, until the project is complete. Bulldozers will shape the sand on the beach into the desired profile.

"This is a landmark project for Galveston, with participation from local landowners, local municipalities and the Texas General Land Office," said Galveston's City Manager Brian Maxwell. "It is a perfect example of public/private collaboration for public benefit."

The new beach will stretch for a half-mile west of the Seawall. The 118,000 cubic yards of sand placed on the beach will naturally erode over time, beefing up West Galveston beaches in the process.

"This project will provide increased recreational opportunities for Galveston visitors and residents," said Melvin Williams, Galveston Park Board Chairman. "It also allows us to maintain our most important tourism asset — our beaches."

The new, bulked-up beach will be darker in color at first, but will soon lighten and erode into a natural beach profile.

The beach renourishment is a joint effort by the General Land Office, the City of Galveston, the Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees and Seascape Condominiums. The General Land Office's Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act program will pay \$775,000 toward the project's cost. The Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees provided the balance, using Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

Funding for the General Land Office's CEPRA program is provided by the Texas Legislature every two years. To learn more about CEPRA or coastal erosion in Texas, visit www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cepra/index.html.

Projects like this one pay for themselves over time, Patterson said, by protecting hundreds of millions of dollars worth of public infrastructure and private property. "This will be my last coastal project as Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office," he said. "I think helping to protect FM 3005 is a good legacy."